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PREFACE

The days of the cave man have passed. Physical strength alone no longer gives prowess to the individual. What the twentieth century demands is the trained intellect. The man who *knows* is the man of the hour.

A very large percentage of all fundamental knowledge is and must be gained through books. They are the storehouses of the world's wisdom from which we all must draw; but of the making of books there is no end. More than ten thousand new ones make their appearance each year. As this process continues from year to year, the world's wisdom becomes more and more scattered. In every book that aims to be instructive there are some things of value while in many there is much that is irrelevant.

It has well been said that, if all the book knowledge of the day could be sifted through a fine screen and only the best things preserved, the process would be highly beneficial to all seekers of wisdom. It was this thought that prompted the building of The Standard Dictionary of Facts. This practical and very instructive work has now been on the market for several years. Its contents have been greatly improved and its sale has greatly increased with the passing of each year. The American people have already invested over three million dollars in the purchase of this single-volume book and those intelligent purchasers are enthusiastically recommending it to their friends.

When The Standard Dictionary of Facts was first issued it was accompanied by a small book of questions designed to call attention to the great mass of information within the one volume. The questions were divided into chapters corresponding to the divisions of the complete book. There was no attempt at further classification. In each chapter the questions were miscellaneous. The little question book went into thousands of homes; it was enthusiastically received. The publishers were surprised by the demand for it made by their sales organization.

Gradually there developed in the minds of the publishers the idea that additional material with careful classification would render such a book of questions more useful and with this thought in view the present question book has been prepared.

The subject matter is divided into fourteen distinct groups embracing approximately seven thousand questions. One particular feature is noteworthy. No separate department of biography is given. Under the subject of science, for example, we find reference to Benjamin Franklin, the discoverer of electricity; under invention reference to Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, and to Edison, the inventor of

the phonograph. We are referred to Geo. W. Goethals in connection with the Panama canal, to Homer in connection with Greek literature, to Baron Strathcona in Canadian history, all important figures in the world's history down to the present day. Thus the biographical characters are associated or interwoven with their particular fields of activity.

The survey of ancient, mediæval, and modern history is especially complete; the older countries are separately treated from their earliest history bringing together much information often difficult to obtain in connected form.

The literature section also is particularly useful, outlining the literatures of ancient and modern times and developing facts from the biographies of many of the world's best writers.

It will be observed that the questions under the various headings are logical, chronological where point of time is to be considered, practical, and cover sufficient material to give a thorough review of the subject treated. Often in one question reference is made to different departments thus linking together points of interest which otherwise the reader might not associate. Page numbers are frequently not in numerical order but should always be consulted in the order in which they are given.

It is the aim of the publishers that this question book serve the following purposes:

he teacher a careful review of many
chool work, referring them to much
the ordinary textbook or in the
merous questions in the various
departments upon the events of the day are of particular value to the student and the teacher in securing knowledge that is up-to-date.

The literary club woman will find the history, language, and literature departments especially useful, outlining a course of study unique in points of arrangement, completeness, and up-to-dateness.

The question book should appeal to those who, having left school early, find their lack of knowledge a handicap. For commercial reasons some desire to improve, others for social reasons, yet lack the means to this end. To all such the question book affords a systematic course of home study enabling one to acquire an immense amount of practical information of inestimable value.

To build a question book is no easy task, but the publishers feel warranted in saying that this little book serves all the purposes enumerated. No aim is made to exhaust the material upon the various subjects, nor to treat all subjects found in the complete book, but rather to call attention to the vast amount of information available in this one-volume reference work, and to show what can be accomplished by diligent and careful use of The Standard Dictionary of Facts.

HOW TO USE

The Standard Question Book is founded on the comprehensive manual entitled The Standard Dictionary of Facts. It is practically a part of that reference volume, having been planned and prepared for use solely in connection with the information therein contained.

This question book, therefore, should always be studied in association with The Standard Dictionary of Facts in which will be found the answers to the questions. At this point it is important to remember that no other single source of information will furnish all of the answers to these questions. While about seven thousand are specially classified for study in this question book, The Standard Dictionary of Facts will answer in the neighborhood of a hundred thousand similar questions.

How to Study. The first necessary step is to get at the start the clearest and most definite idea possible as to what The Standard Dictionary of Facts actually contains. The second necessary step is to learn how to find any desired item of information with ease and speed.

Both of the foregoing are best accomplished by a careful reading of the Preface, pages 3 and 4 of this volume, and the Publishers' Preface, page 3, and How to Use, page 6, in The Standard Dictionary of Facts, supplemented by a little practice in using the Index and in referring to some of the alphabetical lists given at the beginning of the Index, page 867.

Suppose that one desires to acquire more information concerning the geography of Europe. First turn to the index to this book, page 155. Here one will find a list of more than a hundred important subjects, alphabetically arranged and cross-referenced, all of which are given special treatment in this question book.

Opposite the subject "Geography," which one will find among the other subjects in alphabetical order, are the figures "115-130." These figures indicate the pages where the whole subject of geography is treated. But under the head of geography one at once notices several subheads or subdivisions, beginning with "Africa." Glancing down this list of subheads, which is likewise arranged alphabetically, one soon finds "Europe," the subdivision desired. Opposite "Europe" are the figures "122-127" telling the pages on which European geography is treated. If, however, one should look for Europe first instead of geography, one would immediately find under "Europe" the subhead "Geography" with reference to pages "122-127." This illustrates how carefully all subjects treated are indexed.

Turning to the section indicated by the page numbers, one finds about five pages filled with important questions, the answers to which will furnish a good working knowledge of the geography of the whole continent of Europe. The figures following the questions indicate the pages in The Standard Dictionary of Facts where concise and accurate answers may be found. In a like manner the questions on all of the other subjects treated may be easily found and studied.

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"How does the water come down at Lodore?"
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